

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 11, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 155

Introduced by Assembly Member Bocanegra

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Bradford, Buchanan, and ~~Ian Calderon~~ Ian Calderon, Achadjian, Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Bonilla, Brown, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

May 28, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 155—Relative to childhood brain development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 155, as amended, Bocanegra. Childhood brain development: adverse experiences: toxic stress.

This measure would urge the Governor to identify evidence-based solutions to reduce children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences, address the impacts of those experiences, and invest in preventive health care and mental health and wellness interventions.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Research over the last two decades in the evolving
2 fields of neuroscience, molecular biology, public health, genomics,
3 and epigenetics reveals that experiences in the first few years of
4 life build changes into the biology of the human body that, in turn,
5 influence the person's physical and mental health over his or her
6 lifetime; and

7 WHEREAS, Adverse childhood experiences are traumatic
8 experiences that occur during childhood, including physical,
9 emotional or sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect,
10 household dysfunction, including substance abuse, untreated mental
11 illness or incarceration of a household member, domestic violence,
12 or separation or divorce involving household members, that can
13 have a profound effect on a child's developing brain and body and
14 can result in poor health during the person's adulthood; and

15 WHEREAS, The original 1998 Adverse Childhood Experiences
16 Study, which surveyed approximately 17,000 adult Californians,
17 found that two-thirds of participants had at least one adverse
18 childhood experience and one in six participants had four or more
19 adverse childhood experiences; and

20 WHEREAS, The Adverse Childhood Experience Study also
21 found a strong correlation between the number of adverse
22 childhood experiences and a person's risk for disease and negative
23 health behaviors; and

24 WHEREAS, Researchers found that a person with four or more
25 adverse childhood experiences was 2.4 times more likely to have
26 a stroke, 2.2 times more likely to have ischemic heart disease, 2
27 times more likely to have chronic pulmonary obstructive disease,
28 1.9 times more likely to have a type of cancer, and 1.6 times more
29 likely to have diabetes; and

30 WHEREAS, Researchers found that a person with four or more
31 adverse childhood experiences was 12.2 times more likely to
32 attempt suicide, 10.3 times more likely to use injection drugs, and
33 7.4 times more likely to be an alcoholic; and

34 WHEREAS, The life expectancy of a person with six or more
35 adverse childhood experiences is 20 years shorter than a person
36 with no adverse childhood experiences; and

37 WHEREAS, These early adverse experiences literally shape the
38 physical architecture of a child's developing brain and establish
39 either a sturdy or a fragile foundation for all the learning, health,
40 and behavior that follow; and

1 WHEREAS, Strong, frequent, or prolonged stress in childhood
2 caused by adverse childhood experiences can become toxic stress,
3 impacting the development of a child's fundamental brain
4 architecture and stress response systems; and

5 WHEREAS, Early childhood offers a unique window of
6 opportunity to prevent and heal the impacts of adverse childhood
7 experiences and toxic stress on a child's brain and body; and

8 WHEREAS, A child's brain continues to develop through
9 adolescence and into young adulthood; and

10 WHEREAS, The emerging science and research on toxic stress
11 and adverse childhood experiences evidence a growing public
12 health crisis for the state with implications for the state's
13 educational, juvenile justice, criminal justice, and public health
14 systems; and

15 WHEREAS, Adverse childhood experiences can significantly
16 impact a child's success in education; and

17 WHEREAS, The Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI)
18 found that neurobiological, epigenetics, and psychological studies
19 have shown that traumatic experiences in childhood and
20 adolescence can diminish concentration, memory, and the
21 organizational and language abilities students need to succeed in
22 school, thereby negatively impacting a student's academic
23 performance, classroom behavior, and the ability to form
24 relationships; and

25 WHEREAS, A child with four or more adverse childhood
26 experiences is 46 times more likely to have learning or emotional
27 problems; and

28 WHEREAS, A woman with seven or more adverse childhood
29 experiences is 5.5 times more likely to become pregnant as a
30 teenager; and

31 WHEREAS, Adverse childhood experiences can affect a child's
32 future contact with the criminal justice system; and

33 WHEREAS, A woman with three violent adverse childhood
34 experiences is 3.5 times more likely to become the victim of
35 intimate partner violence, while a man with three violent adverse
36 childhood experiences is 3.8 times more likely to perpetrate
37 intimate partner violence; and

38 WHEREAS, A critical factor in buffering children from the
39 effects of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences is the
40 existence of supportive, stable relationships between children and

1 their families, caregivers, and other important adults in their lives;
2 and
3 WHEREAS, Positively influencing the architecture of a child’s
4 developing brain is more effective and less costly than attempting
5 to correct poor learning, health, and behaviors later in life; now,
6 therefore, be it
7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges the Governor to
9 reduce children’s exposure to adverse childhood experiences,
10 address the impacts of those experiences, and invest in preventive
11 health care and mental health and wellness interventions; and be
12 it further
13 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the Governor of California,
14 in doing the foregoing, to consider the principles of brain
15 development, the intimate connection between mental and physical
16 health, the concepts of toxic stress, adverse childhood experiences,
17 buffering relationships, and the roles of early intervention and
18 investment in children as important strategies; and be it further
19 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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23 CORRECTIONS: _____
24 Heading—Coauthors—Page 1.
25 _____